

Senate Monthly Newsletter - March 2020 Edition



Academic Senate

March 2020 Newsletter | senate.ucmerced.edu

Division News:

From the Senate Chair: As the spring 2020 semester is now well underway, I write with announcements, updates, and invitations to participate in upcoming Senate events. The Senate and administrative leaderships continue to monitor the continuing developments regarding the COVID-19 outbreak. Useful information is available [here](#).

First, please join me in congratulating Professor Sarah Kurtz for becoming the first UC Merced faculty member to be elected to the National Academy of Engineering (NAE). [Read more!](#)

At its February 12 meeting, the Assembly of the Academic Senate approved a set of additional recommendations related to the Area D ("Laboratory Science") freshman admission requirement. You may find Assembly Chair Kum-Kum Bhavnani's letter [here](#).

Due to an insufficient number of nominations for the Spring UCM Senate Elections, CRE opted not to hold an Election this year. Instead, CoC has been invited to identify nominees to fill the vacancies on CoC and DivCo At-Large.

The Senate has completed its review of the proposal for a new major: a B.S. in Civil Engineering, effective fall 2021.

As noted in the February 2020 issue, CoR received 35 total research grant proposals: 11 proposals from SNS, 7 from SoE, and 17 from SSHA. I am pleased to report 25 of these

proposals were awarded. 2020 Senate faculty grant awardees may be found [here](#).

UC Merced will host regional admission receptions (March 28-29 and April 4-5, 2020) across the State for admitted students and their families to meet with current students and learn about campus resources.

CAPRA, the EVC/Provost, and the Associate Provost for Academic Planning & Budget are reviewing the documents submitted by Schools and Divisions for Phase I of academic planning.

Finally, I hope you will mark the following on your calendars:

- **The nomination period for the Academic Senate's nine Senate Awards will close at 5 p.m. on Monday, March 9, 2020.** Departments are encouraged to recognize members' achievements by nominating individuals for each award.
- **The annual spring Meeting of the Division will take place on Thursday, May 7, 2020 from 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. in KL 232.** As always, a reception will follow. At this meeting, next academic year's Senate Chair and Vice Chair and the recipients of the Senate Awards will be announced. We hope you will participate in this final Meeting of the Division for AY 2019-20 and/or join the reception that immediately follows to connect with colleagues.

- Tom Hansford

Committee Highlights

[The Committee on Academic Personnel](#) (CAP) is conducting business as usual.

[The Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation](#) (CAPRA) is working with APAPB Schnier to prepare for the review of documents that will be submitted by Schools and Divisions in support of Phase I of academic planning. Committee is also reviewing the joint Senate-administration Budget Working Group's proposed model for summer session faculty compensation.

[The Committee on Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom](#) (FWAF) discussed, and issued a memo on, a systemwide report on UC affiliations with non-UC entities. FWAF also heard updates from the Associate Vice Provost for Faculty on the Faculty Peer Mediation Program. FWAF is also working on drafting a campus statement, for Division Council's future review, on Academic Freedom, in response to a suggestion from the University Committee on Academic Freedom.

[The Committee on Research](#) (COR) has finalized revisions to the second draft of the ORU policy and has submitted to Division Council for review. The committee continues to refine its draft research enhancement proposal. The committee also opined on the “White Paper on Recognizing International Activities as Part of the Merit, Tenure, and Promotion Process at the University of California”.

[The Graduate Council](#) (GC) met on February 4 and 18. GC continues to work on CRF Policy revisions, and has voted to remove the Syllabus requirement starting with proposals submitted to Curriculog in AY 2020-21, and is proposing to have an abbreviated review process for a number of CRF modifications. GC also established a Workgroup with members of the Curriculum Advisory Board for the Teacher Preparation Program, GC Chair and Vice Chair, and the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Education (VPDGE), and discussed preparation for the impending Supreme Court decision on DACA, as well as the Academic Planning Document prepared by the VPDGE.

[The Committee on Rules and Elections](#) (CRE) opined on UGC’s proposal to establish the Admissions and Financial Aid Subcommittee of UGC as a stand-alone Senate Committee. CRE has begun its decennial review of the UCM Bylaws.

[The Committee on Diversity and Equity](#) (D&E) consulted with Vice Chancellor and Chief External Relations Officer Klotzbier, Associate Vice Chancellor Han, and Assistant Vice Chancellor Pollard on the possibility of an Endowed Chair for Diversity and Equity, and consulted Chief Diversity Officer Matos and Associate Vice Provost for Faculty Valdez on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in faculty hiring process and retention. D&E also continued its discussion on space planning and how it may best address the needs of students, in particular historically underrepresented students, including undergraduate students over 25 years of age.

[The Committee on Library and Scholarly Communications](#) (LASC) is exploring the issue of Library consultation as proposals for new programs are developed. The committee also reviewed the Library’s draft goals that will eventually be submitted to the EVC/Provost and the Senate in support of academic planning, as well as heard a presentation from Research Services Librarian Elizabeth Salmon on the Zero Cost Course Materials Initiative.

[The Undergraduate Council](#) (UGC) has reviewed and made recommendations on 16 courses. Members have discussed, and will offer comments on the following: Report of the Standardized Testing Task Force and the BOARS recommendations to eliminate the ACT/SAT Essay Writing Test.

[Divisional Council](#) (DivCo) convened on March 4 and discussed a White Paper on Recognizing International Activities in Merit, Tenure and Promotion Processes.

[March](#)

[Contact the Chair](#)

Meeting Schedules

DIVCO - MAR 4, 18, 30
CAP - MAR 6, 13, 20
CAPRA - MAR 10, 31
CoC - MAR 18
CoR - MAR 11
CRE - MAR 30
GC - MAR 3, 17, 31
UGC - MAR 13
FWAF - MAR 10
AFAS - MAR 13
D&E - MAR 2

BOARS - MAR 6
CCGA - MAR 4
EDIT - MAR 20
UCAADE - MAR 5
UCAF - MAR 5
UCAP - MAR 11
UCEP - MAR 2
UCFW - MAR 13
UCIE - MAR 20
UCORP - MAR 9
UCPB - MAR 3

Questions, concerns, or issues you would like to see addressed? Contact Senate Chair Hansford at senatechair@ucmerced.edu.



Review Items:

A new webpage on the UCM Senate website is now available and will be updated regularly. Please click [here](#) to view the items that are currently discussed and reviewed locally and at the systemwide level.



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